



PRESS RELEASE

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MAYOR BALLARD, DR. CAINE PROMOTE EDUCATION IN WAKE OF RECENT SWINE FLU OUTBREAK

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard today joined Marion County Health Department Director Dr. Virginia Caine in updating the public on the measures the city and the health department are taking regarding the recent Swine Flu outbreak.

“The City of Indianapolis, the Marion County Health Department, the local and state Emergency Management Agencies, local healthcare organizations and other community agencies have spent countless hours planning, practicing and preparing for a situation like this,” said Mayor Ballard. “We can take comfort in the fact that Marion County has excellent resources in our health department, emergency response capabilities, our hospitals and our community healthcare system.”

Response plans have been formulated to deal with a possible health emergency resulting from the Swine Flu outbreak. The Administration and the Department of Health are working with other agencies on a comprehensive education and prevention program.

“Our residents should be reassured that we have plans and resources in place. These plans have been rehearsed and our Swine Flu Task Force is now implementing our response. This is a community health concern, and we all have a role to play,” said Dr. Caine.

Among those resources is the recent adoption of the Swine Flu Help Line (317-221-3366) administered by the Marion County Health Department. This help line provides the public with educational resources and sound medical advice in reference to the influenza.

The public is reminded to follow basic precautionary measures to prevent the spread of a cold, influenza, or any infectious disease, including:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it. Cough or sneeze into your sleeve, rather than your hands, if a tissue is not available.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are also effective.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.

For more information on the Swine Flu and what you can do to protect yourself, please visit the Marion County Health Department website at <http://www.mchd.com/> or call the Help Line at 317-221-3366.

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